MM#1 WALT DISNEY LIRE 4000 LUGLIO 1999

MICKEY MOUSE MM MYSTERY MAGAZINE

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THE LINK

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MM #1
LUGLIO 1999

Direttore responsabile:
Paolo Cavaglione.

Vicedirettore:
Aldo Vitali.

Redazione:
Ezio Sisto (caporedattore sceneggiature),
Simone Stenti (caposervizio sceneggiature),
Santo Scarcella, Barbara Schwartz, Gabriella Valera.

Art Director:
Aldo Carrier Ragazzi.

Redazione grafica e artistica:
Vito Notarnicola (caposervizio), Luana Ballerani,
Emanuela Fecchio, Gabriela Lovati,
Cristina Meroni, Max Monteduro,
Beatrice Pallavicini, Patrizia Zardo.

Segreteria di direzione:
Monica Gazzoli.

Segreteria di redazione:
Mila Botton (responsabile), Emma Venturini.

Coordinamento estero:
Silvia Figini (responsabile), Paola Tirelli.

Progetto editoriale: Ezio Sisto, Simone Stenti.
Grafica: Aldo Carrier Ragazzi, Luana Ballerani,
Cristina Meroni, Max Monteduro.

THE LINK
Soggetto: Faraci &Sisto.
Sceneggiatura: Tito Faraci.
Matite: Alessandro Perina. **China:** Sandro Zemolin.
Copertina: Alessandro Perina e Andrea Cagol.
Lettering: Fiorenza Gallazzi.

The Walt Disney Company Italia Spa
Presidente:
Umberto Virri.

Direttore generale:
Gianni Crespi.

Direttore divisione periodici:
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Pubblicità
Direzione: Paola Gonella.
Advertising manager: Daniela Gnocchi.

Produzione
Direzione: Franco Zanaboni.
Coordinamento: Domenica Viviani, Nadia Cucco,
Alessandro Peruggia.

Divisione periodici Disney - via Sandro Sandri 1
20121 Milano - tel. 02/290851 - fax 02/29085162
Fotolito: Litomilano - Carugate (Mi)
Stampa: Rotolito Lombarda - Cernusco s/n (Mi)
Pubblicità: P.I.M. - Pubblicità Italiana Multimedia Srl
Sede legale: 20134 Milano - via Tucidide, 56 bis
tel. 02/70003302 - fax 02/70001941
Direzione Generale e Operativa: 20124 Milano
via S. Gregorio, 34 - tel. 02/67169.1 - fax 02/67169750
Diffusione e distribuzione: A&G Marco SpA - via Fortezza 27,
20126 Milano - tel. 02/25261 - fax 02/27000823

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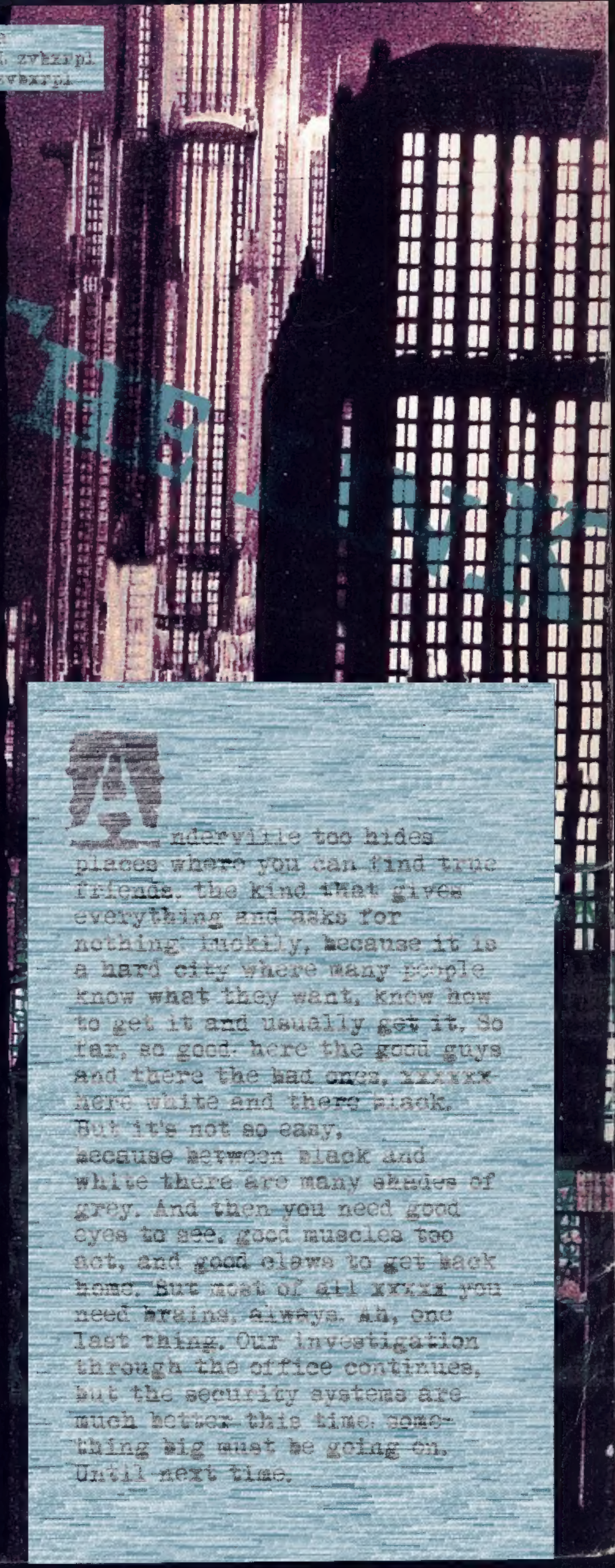
Questo periodico è iscritto alla
Federazione Italiana Editori Giornali



I'm writing this from one of the most beautiful places where you can find true friends, the kind that gives everything and asks for nothing. Luckily, because it is a hard city where many people know what they want, know how to get it and usually get it. So far, so good: here the good guys and there the bad ones, here white and there black. But it's not so easy, because between black and white there are many shades of grey. And then you need good eyes to see, good muscles too act, and good claws to get back home. But most of all you need brains, always. Ah, one last thing. Our investigation through the office continues, but the security systems are much better this time: something big must be going on. Until next time.

BEFORE WE START, A QUESTION.

YEAH... WHEN ARE YOU GOING AWAY?

DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COUNT DRACULA AND A BRIGHT AND CUNNING DETECTIVE FROM THE 28TH PRECINCT?

HEY! THE BOY BELIEVES IN VAMPIRES.

IT'S EASY! ONE OF 'EM DOESN'T EXIST!

AND NOW, I'LL LET THE ONE YOU'RE ALL WAITING FOR TAKE THE STAGE. MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE, BECAUSE...

CLAP CLAP

THANKS FOR THE APPLAUSE, GRANDMA. I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU.

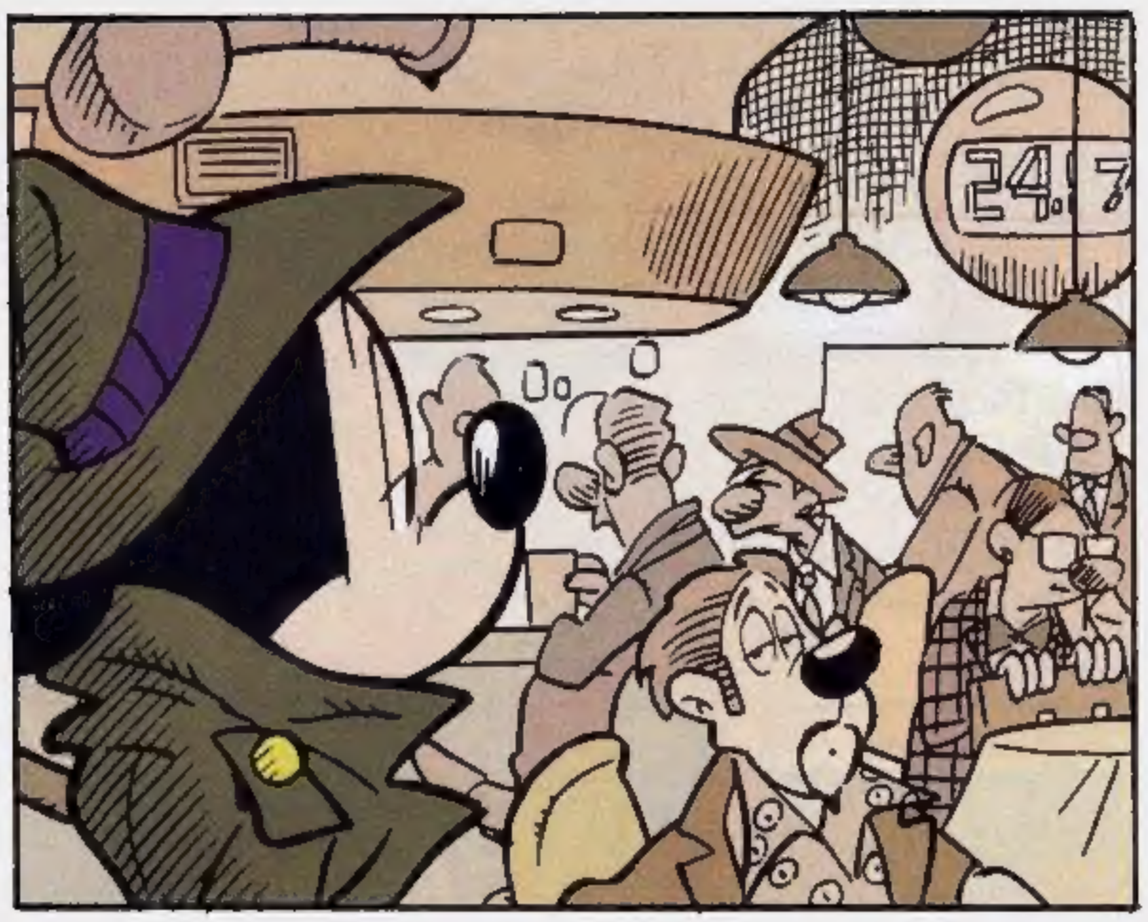
...THE SHOW BEGINS!

The Link

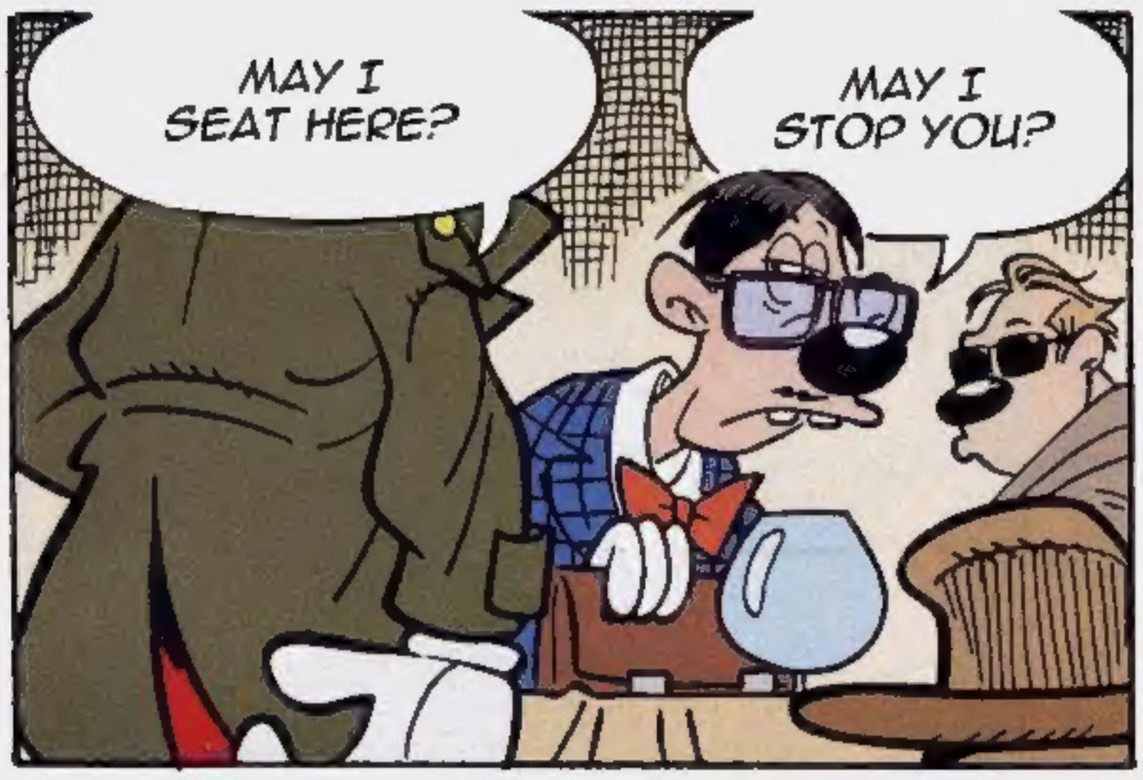
WALT DISNEY

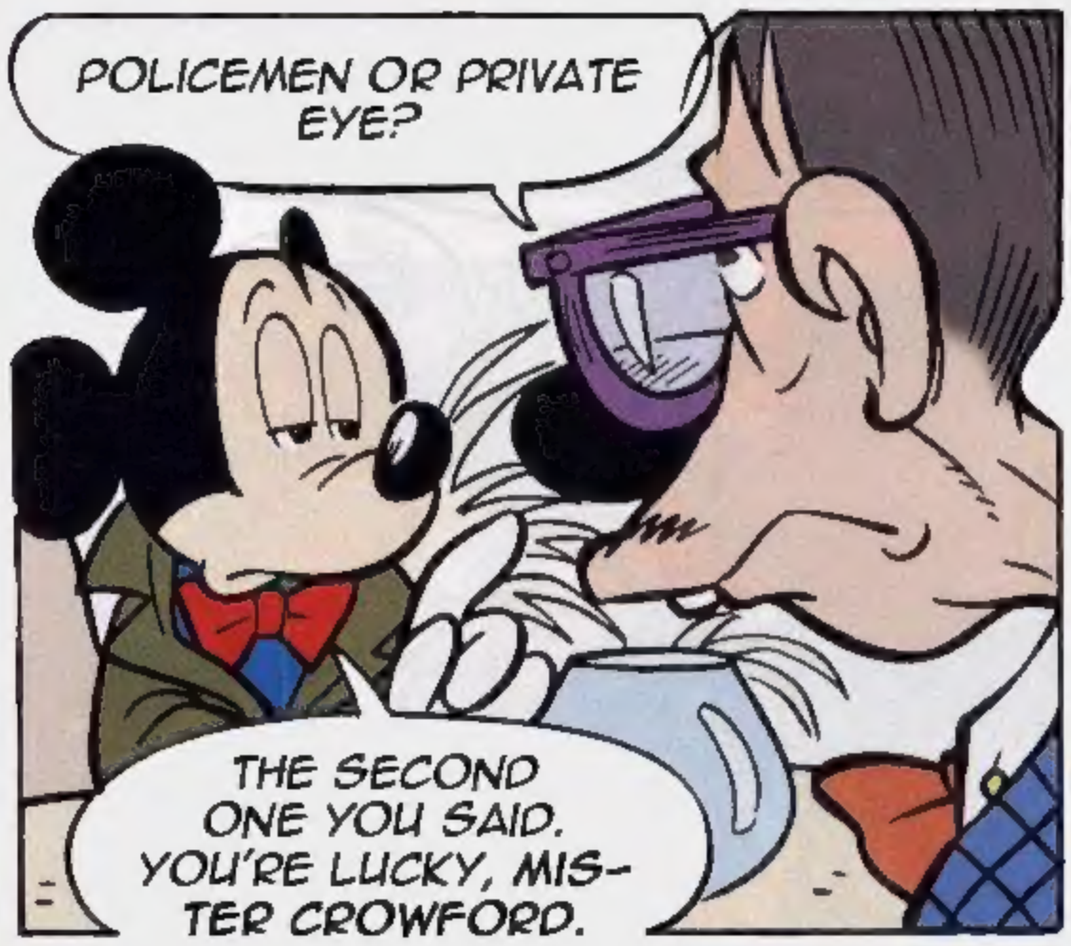
I lived to investigate, once.

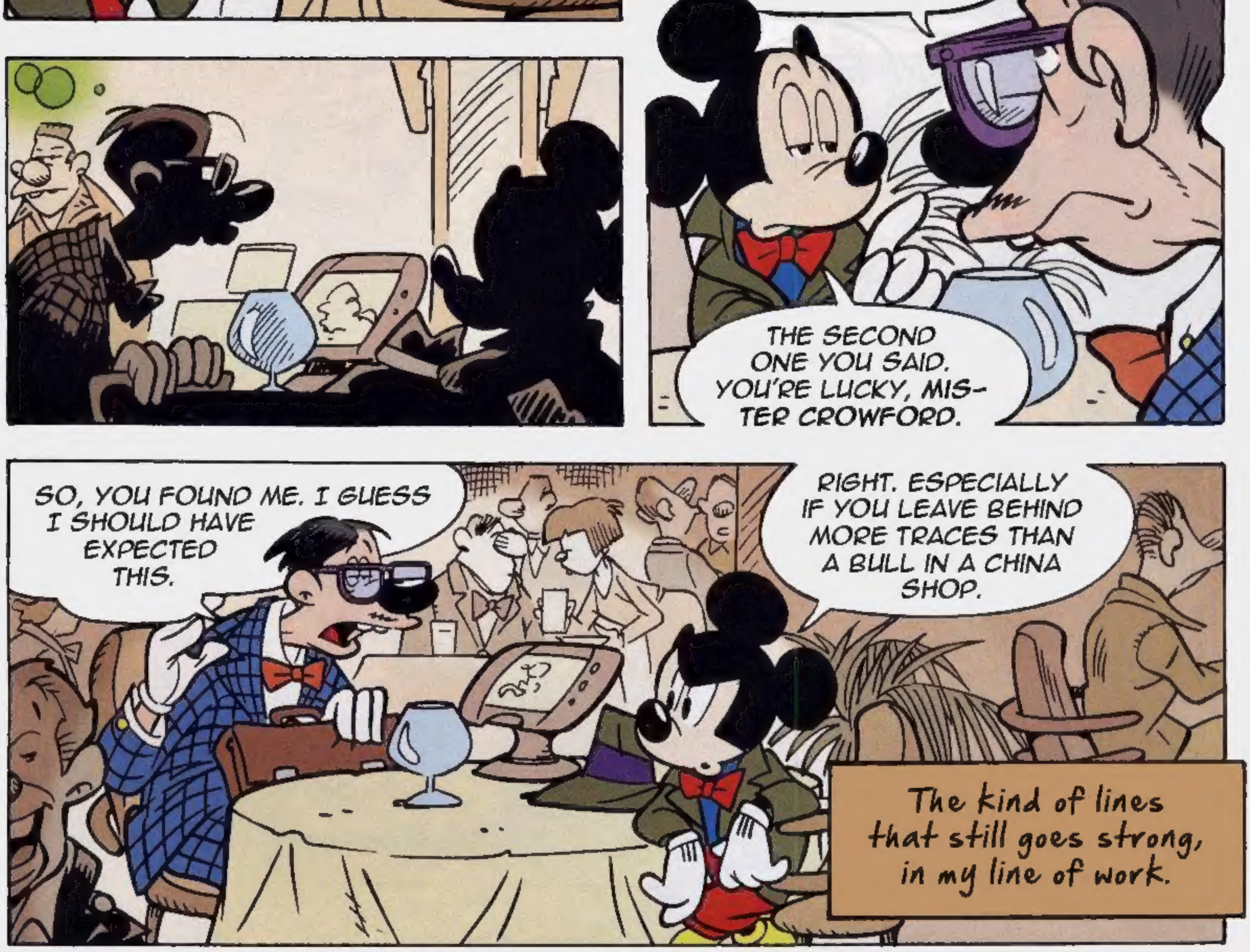
For two months, I've been investigating for a living.


24/7

C'MON GRANDMA, I'M TAKING YOU HOME. IT'S LATE.
YOU CAN GO. I'M JUST STARTING TO HAVE FUN...


MAY I SEAT HERE?
MAY I STOP YOU?


POLICEMEN OR PRIVATE EYE?
THE SECOND ONE YOU SAID. YOU'RE LUCKY, MISTER CROWFORD.


SO, YOU FOUND ME. I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THIS.
RIGHT. ESPECIALLY IF YOU LEAVE BEHIND MORE TRACES THAN A BULL IN A CHINA SHOP.
The kind of lines that still goes strong, in my line of work.

AND NOW, MISTER MOODROCK WILL HAVE ME ARRESTED?

I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT YOU'RE LUCKY.

YOUR BOSS ISN'T INCLINED TO GIVE UP A BOOKKEEPER ABLE TO MAKE ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS DISAPPEAR IN THREE WEEKS WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING...

HE WON'T LET SOMEONE WHO KNOWS HIS ACCOUNTING THIS WELL GO, SO IT SEEMS.

HE WON'T LET HIS HUNDRED THOUSAND GO EITHER, OF COURSE. BUT HE'S SURE YOU WERE GOING TO HAND THEM BACK.

AND... I WON'T BE LOCKED UP?

NO CRIME, NO PUNISHMENT.

The road to justice sometimes offers shortcuts...

...and very often they pass through Anderville.

FWWWSS

SKREEK

WOOSH

CLUD

KLANG

KREEE

FSSSS

KLANK

OSH

SKREE

KLU

OSH

CLING CLING

SKR

CLING CLING

SKEE-KLANK

CLING CLING

CREEK

DONE. THE BOILER SHOULD GIVE YOU NO MORE TROUBLES. AT LEAST FOR A WHILE.

NICE JOB, TOM.

I'M NOT SURE I HEARD YOU, MAN.

HEM... I MEANT TOMOKA.

RIGHT. THAT IS MY NAME.

WELL, LET'S GET MOVING NOW. FOLLOW ME.

I KNOW THE WAY.

NOPE, MATE. WE HAVE TO PASS BY THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR OFFICE, FIRST...

Older maximum security prison.

THERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!

Northside district. A week ago.

WHU HAFF ITH.

HEM... SARGE...

TYLER'S

...THE FLASH LIGHT DOESN'T HELP WITH THE DICTION...

UH?

ZAP

AS I WAS SAYING, WE HAVE IT!

IN THIS REGIS-TER THERE ARE NUMBERS, DATES, SITUA-TIONS...

AND, ABOVE ALL, NAMES! THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANDER-VILLE'S BIGGEST ILLEGAL BETTING TRADE.

AWESOME, SARGE.

CAN I HAVE A LOOK?

GO AHEAD, BUT BE CAREFUL. IT'S WORTH A PROMOTION.

HEY, THERE'S OLE RAMON FERGUSON, TOO!

AH! THE ONE WITH THE GAM-BLING DEN IN MIDDLE HEART?

RIGHT! HE STILL OWES ME...

?

...HEM... A BOOK! A BOOK THAT HE BOR-ROWED ME

YEAH, SURE...

AND WHO'S THIS ONE HERE?

EASY, WITH THOSE PAWS!

CONSTABLE, WHAT'S UP WITH YOUR FACE?

R-READ HERE, SARGE!

VROOOOM

1&1 LIVE

SONDRA MALLIK HERE, LIVE FOR ANDERCHANNEL 1&1 NEWS. BEHIND ME THE MILLITRONICS BASE, THE IT GIANT, WHICH...

WAIT! THAT LIMO... CAN YOU FRAME IT, JOE?

YOU CAN SEE LEOPOLD MILLIGHAN COMING OUT OF THE CAR, THE COMPANY'S MAIN SHAREHOLDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR. I'M GOING TO ASK HIM SOME QUESTIONS...

MISTER MILLIGHAN, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF TOMOKA MARSHALL'S IMPENDING RELEASE?

RIGHT AWAY, SIR!

WILL SOMEONE GET THIS MEDDLER AWAY FROM ME?

AFTER ALL, ONLY TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED, SINCE THE THEFT... HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU DUMB APES?! YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT... I'M A JOURNALI...

CRASH

SHE OFFENDED 'EM, THOUGH.

BAH! THERE'S NO MORE RESPECT FOR THE FAIR SEX.

YEAH. THEY'RE SENSITIVE APES, IT'S AS CLEAR AS DAY.

BAR

SNACK

SHAKES

EER

COFFEE

ICE COLD

"Little Caesar's" Diner. Nov.

PITY, THAT REPORT LOOKED INTERESTING. WHAT'S THIS STORY, STAN? WHO'S TOMO...

SOUP $1.99

TOMOKA MARSHALL, MICKEY. THAT IS, THE ONLY ONE TO PAY THE PRICE FOR THE MILLITRONICS JOB!

Stan is the best customer of his own news kiosk. I use him as a living database of everything that happened in the city in the last years...

LEOPOLD MILLIGHAN'S FACTORY MANUFACTURES... GADGETS TO MAKE SATELLITES WORK. YOU KNOW, I CAN'T MAKE HEAD OR TAILS OUTTA THAT STUFF.

THEN WE CAN START A CLUB. GO ON.

TO CUT IT SHORT, ONE NIGHT, SOME TWO YEARS AGO, SOMEONE ENTERS IN THEIR LABORATORIES. AND HE TAKES AWAY WITH HIM A... GIZMO, AS A SOUVENIR.

AND THAT SOMEONE IS TOMOKA MARSHALL, RIGHT?

POO POOOOT

YES AND NO. HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T ESCAPE.

HOT $

SO IT WAS A GROUP JOB?

JUST SO. BUT HE HAPPENS TO BE A TOUGH GUY. THE KIND THAT KEEPS THEIR MOUTH SHUT EVEN WITH THE DENTIST.

THE COPS GRILL HIM FOR WEEKS, IN VAIN. TO MAKE HIM TALK, THEY WOULD HAVE TO PUT A VENTRILOQUIST NEXT TO HIM.

HOWEVER, RUMORS ABOUT SOME PEOPLE SPREAD. NAMELY, TWO... FREDDIE CONRAD AND RALF FRISCO.

FOLKS WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD AS CLEAN AS DASH'S UNDERWEAR.

HEY! I DID CHANGE IT, MIND YOU! I REMEMBER IT WELL... 'TWAS A THURSDAY!

BUT THE COPS, WITHOUT MARSHALL'S WITNESS, HAD THEIR HANDS TIED. MORAL OF THE STORY IS... TOMOKA ENDS UP IN OLDER, ALL ALONE.

WAIT A SEC! AND THE... THINGY?

VANISHED INTO THIN AIR!

AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY ALLOCATED A FUNDING WITH A ROW OF ZEROES THAT WENT FROM HERE TO MOUSETON.

TO SAY NOTHING OF THE LOST TIME. IT TOOK MILLI-TRONICS SIX MONTHS TO DEVELOP ANOTHER PROTO-TYPE OF THE... POINTING MICROCHIP.

TOMOKA SURELY GAVE AN IMPRESSIVE DIS-PLAY OF LOYALTY TOWARDS HIS PARTNERS.

YES. BUT LOYALTY IS A FEELING THAT IS NOT ALWAYS RETURNED.

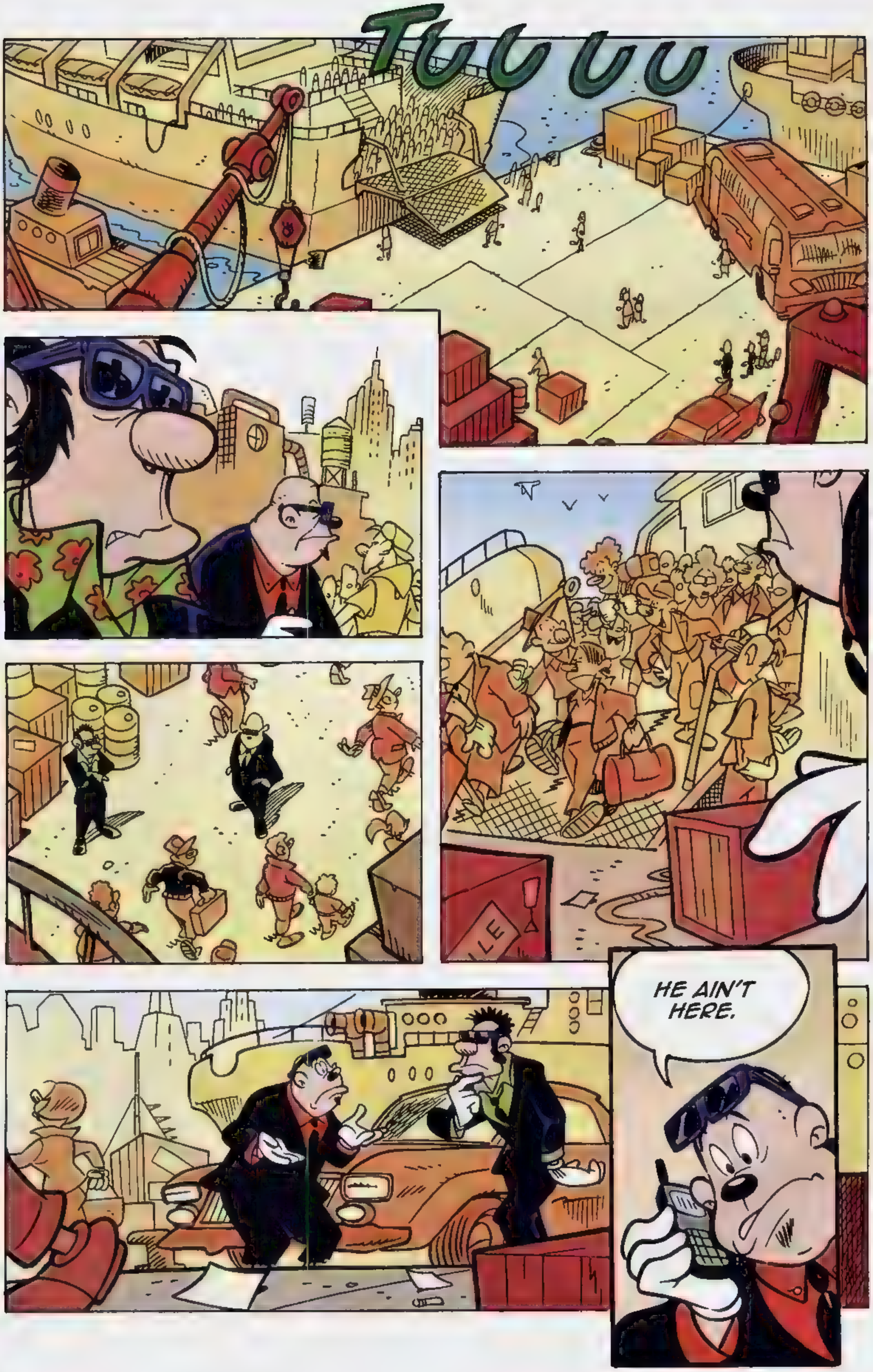
Anderville Bay.

TUUUUTT

TUUUUT

HEY, WHAT THE...

SPLASH


Tuuu
HE AIN'T HERE.

Dockers district, "Freddie Conrad Import&Export" warehouse and office.

THAT'S JUST WHAT WE NEEDED! HOW COME HE'S ALREADY OUT?!

FREDDIE CONRAD IMPORT & EXPORT.

JUSTICE DOESN'T WORK... THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH ANDERVILLE!

PIONEER STAR TRIBUNE

SCARCERATO TOMOKA

CAN I POINT OUT THAT COMIN' FROM YOU IT SOUNDS LIKE A JOKE, FREDDIE?

NO!

YOU'RE GETTIN' TOO WORKED UP, FREDDIE. HE'S ALONE, AGAINST US!

YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?

WE ARE ALONE, AGAINST HIM.

I've run out of clients, for the moment. And I hope a new one isn't coming in the next half hour...

...because I want to have a look at Sonny's archive.

SKREEEK

WELCOME BACK!

?!

SORRY?

I WAS TALKING TO BOBBY, MY INVISIBLE BUNNY.

ARE YOU MAKING A FOOL OF ME?

I'D NEVER DARE TO, BOSS!

Boss?

And so I'm the last one to find out that I have a secretary, Sarah Fossett. A bad blow to my self-esteem as a detective.

THE OTHER DAY I CAME ACROSS AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE FIREWORKS YOU MADE AT THE STATION...*

*IF YOU DON'T GET THE REFERENCE, PULL MM #00 OUT OF YOUR SAFE. IF YOU MISSED IT, PULL IT OUT OF SOMEBODY ELSE'S SAFE.

A QUITE INTERESTING READ, WHICH ALLOWED ME TO DISCOVER THAT THE AGENCY IS RUNNING AGAIN.

EVEN IF NOW THERE'S YOU INSTEAD OF...

...SONNY.

That name echoes in the void he left in this office. And in our lives.

AH, I ALMOST FORGOT... MISTER MOODROCK CAME, WITH THE PAYMENT FOR THE CROWFORD AFFAIR.

GREAT.

HERE YOU ARE, NINETY-EIGHT DOLLARS A DAY, PLUS EXPENSES, FOR WEEK'S WORTH OF WORK.

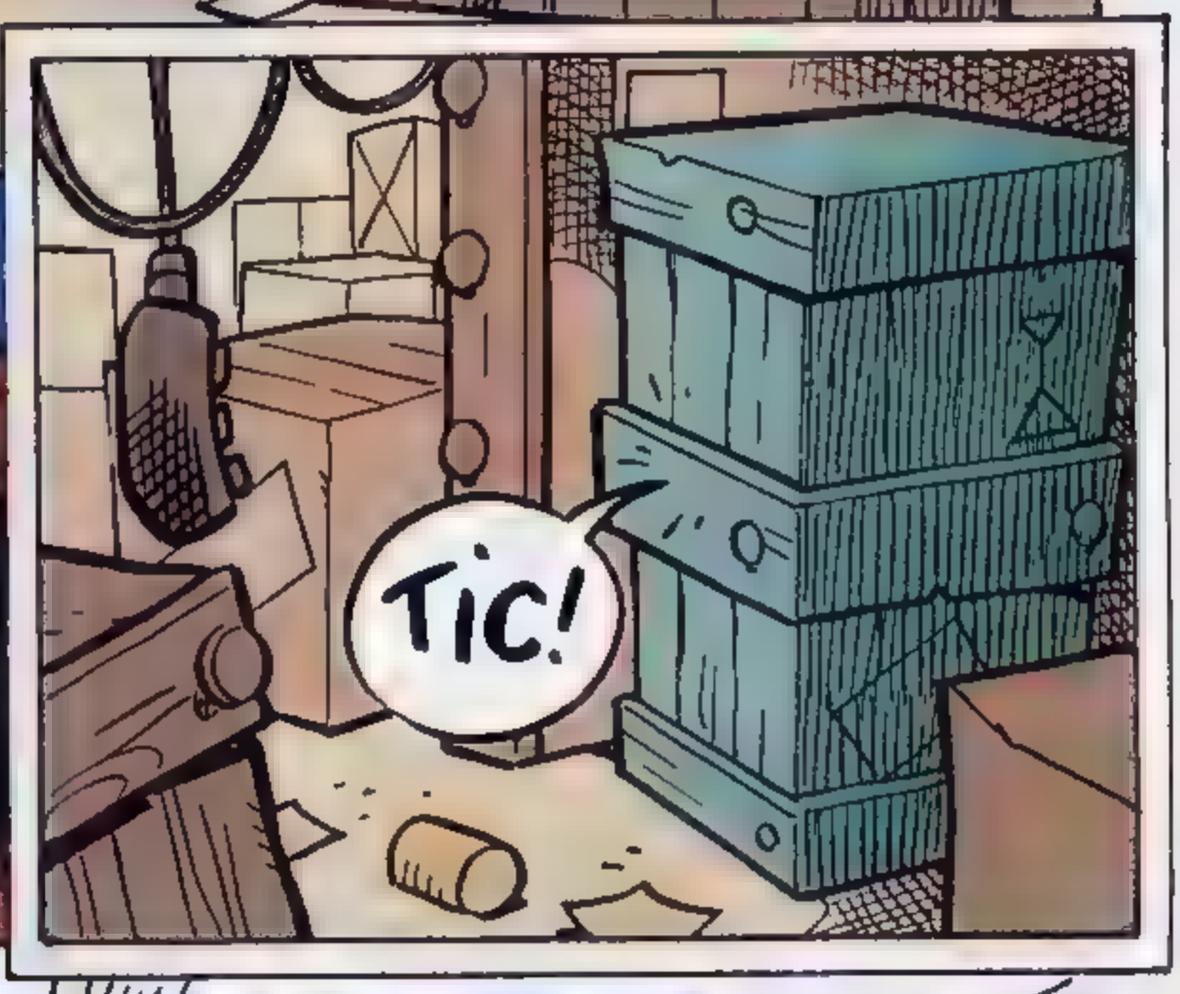
...

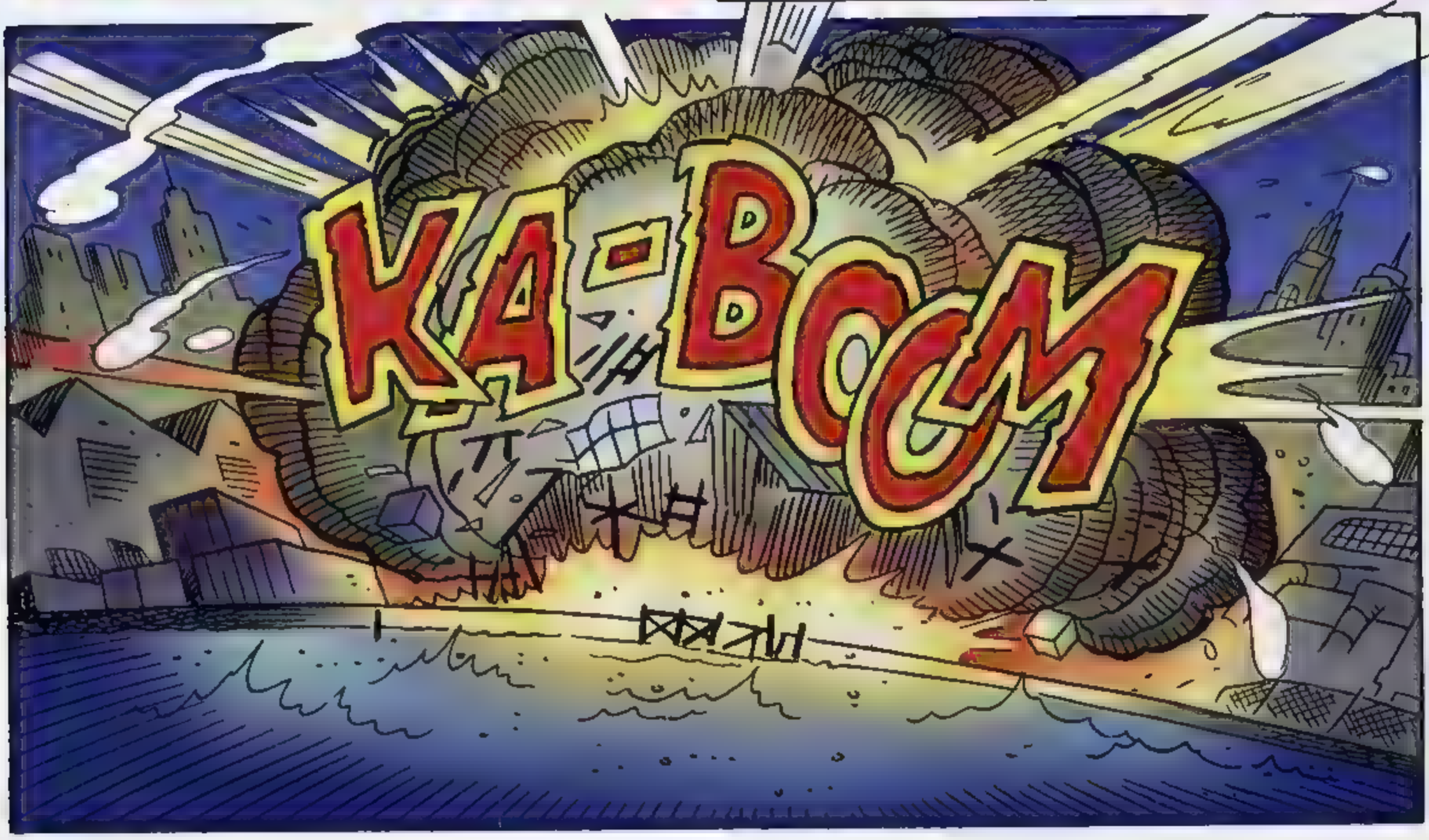
ANDERVILLE'S MATH IS FULL OF SURPRISES.

OF COURSE I KEPT A LITTLE ADVANCE ON THE PAY THAT THE AGENCY STILL OWES ME.

I think the two of us will get along well. For my own sake.

FRFDDIE GWRAD


TIC!


KA-BOOM

RUUUN!

FIRE!
FIRE!

HEY, TOMOKA, WHERE'S THE BUTTON TO TURN YOU ON?

I,

AFTER ALL THIS TIME, YOU COULD AT LEAST GRANT US A TOAST... TO OUR NEW LIFE!

AT THE MOMENT, IT'S STILL THE OLD ONE, FREDDIE.

CLANG

IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS WE'LL HAVE IN OUR HANDS A... COUPON GOOD FOR TWO MILLION DOLLARS! AIN'T YOU HAPPY, TOM... OOPS, TOMOKA?

OF COURSE, RALF. I'M SO DELIGHTED I COULD EVEN DANCE...

...BUT THEN I'M AFRAID IT COULD START RAINING!

HA! HA! HA!

NICE ONE!

MICKEY, WHAT A SURPRISE!

28th precinct. Today.

DO CLOSE THE DOOR... FROM OUTSIDE!

I DON'T FEEL LIKE JOKING.

GO AHEAD, SIT DOWN. I KNEW YOU ASKED FOR ME TWO OR... THREE HUNDRED TIMES. WHAT'S THE MATTER?

INSPECTOR, WHEN WILL I BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE?

By now, I know the precinct so well I even managed to get to Jan Clayton's office without being stopped

EVEN NOW. THE EXIT IS RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

DON'T PLAY DUMB! YOU'VE FORCED ME TO STAY IN ANDERVILLE FOR TWO MONTHS, AT YOUR DISPOSAL!

YOU'RE BORED? PERHAPS YOU STILL HAVEN'T VISITED THE MUSEUM OF BOLTS. THE BIGGEST ONE IN THE WORLD IS THERE, YOU KNOW?

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

EH, EH! THE PROBLEM WITH DETECTIVES IS THAT WE CAN'T HIDE NOTHING FROM YOU.

ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU'RE STILL HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME.

LET'S NOT START THE REFRAIN AGAIN.

I ALREADY SAID EVERYTHING ABOUT THE RUD KAMINSKY AFFAIR.

SOMETIMES EVERYTHING ISN'T ENOUGH.

MAY I, JAN?

I WAS PASSING BY AND I DECIDED TO COME AND SAY HELLO.

FORREST STEELHAMMER, WHAT A COINCIDENCE. YOU CAME TO MY MIND, YESTER-DAY NIGHT, WHILE I WAS TAKING OUT THE TRASH!

All of a sudden, chill was cast over the office...

ALWAYS VERY FUNNY, OUR JAN CLAYTON. I MIGHT DIS-LOCATE MY JAW FROM THE LAUGHS.

DON'T WORRY. A PUNCH AND IT SHIFTS BACK INTO PLACE.

SO, LIEUTENANT, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE... BUSINESS OR TOURISM?

I'M HUNTING...

And then the atmosphere becomes red-hot. The climate is quite uncertain around here.

I'M SEEKING TOMOKA MARSHALL!

AH! AND WHY?

It's a two-player game. Right now I could be a double for a movie about the invisible man.

'CAUSE LAST NIGHT HE BLEW UP FREDDIE CONRAD'S WAREHOUSE!

NO ONE SAW HIM. HE COULD BE INNOCENT.

INDEED... MAYBE IT WAS THE EASTER BUNNY!

DID FORENSICS FIND EGG TRACES?

HE HAD A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH HIS OLD PARTNER. WHEN TOMOKA GOT OUT OF PRISON HE WENT STRAIGHT FOR CONRAD. IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO UNDERSTAND IT.

YES, YOU'RE BRAIN'S ENOUGH.

WELL, I KNOW TOMOKA'S FILE'S HERE, AT THE 28TH... AND I HAVE A WARRANT AUTHORIZING ME TO PICK IT UP.

GO TO THE ARCHIVE, THEN. WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?

NOTHING, INSPECTOR, NOTHING. I JUST WANTED TO SAY HI, I TOLD YOU.

GOODBYE, ALETHEA...

...AND BE CAREFUL NOT TO FALL INTO A HOLE!

!

SLAM

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THIS LAST QUIP.

OH, JUST AN OLD JOKE...

"...between him and me!"

LET'S GO.

CLIC

HERE YOU ARE, AT LAST! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

VERA ACKERMAN!

OH, YOU ALREADY KNOW EACH OTHER?

OF COURSE, SARAH. MICKEY AND I ARE VERY GOOD FRIENDS...

...ESPECIALLY SINCE I PERSUADED A CERTAIN SOMEONE NOT TO SEND HIM DOWN THE BAY TO BOTHER THE FISHES!

THAT'S A CREDIT TO YOU. ANIMALS MUST BE RESPECTED, IN PARTICULAR WHEN THEY'RE IN THEIR OWN HABITAT.

EASY AS PIE, BOSS. MISS CAME TO VISIT US...

"...together with a client!"

MY NAME IS AKIMA... AKIMA MARSHALL.

CAN SOMEONE EXPLAIN ME WHAT'S UP?

I'M IN NO HURRY, DON'T WORRY...

I WANT YOU TO FIND MY SON TOMOKA.

MMMH...

Not even the exhalations of Irma's, the caretaker, cabbage soup can cover the smell of troubles.

I WOULDN'T BE THE ONLY ONE SEARCHING HIM, I UNDERSTAND.

YES, BUT YOU MUST BE THE FIRST ONE TO FIND HIM.

BOY, LET'S MAKE IT CLEAR RIGHT NOW: MY SON HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT EXPLOSION...

YET SOME PEOPLE AREN'T SO SURE OF THIS.

SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW HIM. VENGEANCE HAS NO PART IN THE CULTURE OF OUR PEOPLE. NOR IT HAS IN MY SON'S NATURE.

AND BESIDES I KNOW HE'S INNOCENT. MY SECOND SIGHT TOLD ME SO!

SHE'S KIND OF A PSYCHIC.

I SEE.

I guess that if in this city there were a normal person, he would be a sensation.

In the following half hour I ask many questions and hear few answers...

NO, TOMOKA DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS THAT I KNOW OF...

...BESIDES THEM.

YOU MEAN THE MEMBERS OF THE GANG THAT DID THE MILLITRONICS JOB?

JUST SO! FREDDIE CONRAD AND RALF FRISCO!

WELL, THEIR INVOLVEMENT HAS NEVER BEEN PROVED.

I KNOW THAT NIGHT THEY WERE THERE TOO, VERA!

OUT OF CURIOSITY, MA'AM...

WHY DIDN'T YOUR SON COME TO YOU, AFTER HE WAS FREED?

FOR THE SAME REASON HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO VISIT HIM, IN THESE TWO YEARS. HE FEELS UNWORTHY!

I WANT YOU TO FIND HIM BECAUSE OF THIS TOO. I MUST BE ABLE TO TO GIVE HIM MY FORGIVENESS...

...AND THE ONE OF HIS PEOPLE.

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS STORY...

PIONEER

OMBER HUNT CONTINUES!

POLICE IS ON TRACK OF TOMOKA MARSHALL. IN THE FLAMING WAREHOUSE SMUGGLED GOODS WERE FOUND; FREDDIE CONRAD UNDER INQUIRY

IF TOMOKA MARSHALL WAS SO MAD AT FREDDIE CONRAD, WHY DIDN'T HE SPEAK HIS NAME DURING THE INTERROGATIONS?

MAYBE HE WANTED TO TAKE HIS REVENGE PERSONALLY, ONCE HE GOT OUT OF THE NICK.

My new case instantly becomes the topic of the day and everyone feels compelled to state an opinion.

REVENGE FOR WHAT?

FOR LEAVING HIM IN A FIX THAT NIGHT. OR FOR SPENDING HIS SHARE TOO. WHO KNOWS...

Ray and Dash are regulars of the diner. I suspect they were already part of the furniture when Little Caesar took over he place.

BAH! A MAN'S HEART IS MYSTERIOUS AND CHANGEABLE, JUST LIKE THE INSIDE OF THESE HAMBURGERS.

NO DOCTOR ORDERED YOU TO EAT THEM.

There's also Burke, Anderville's most reckless taxi driver.

I already told you about Stan...

ONE THING'S FOR SURE, THAT TOMOKA IS A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK. RALF FRISCO MUST BE FEELING LIKE FAIR GAME, NOW.

HA! HA! HA! MAYBE HE LIKES THAT, SINCE HE OWNS A FUNFAIR.

OH, REALLY? UNUSUAL BUSINESS FOR A CRIMINAL!

REFORMED CRIMINAL, MICKEY! RALF HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BIG CHILD. AND SINCE HE OPENED THAT AMUSEMENT PARK, HE GOT HIMSELF SORTED OUT.

I MIGHT GO THERE AND ASK HIM A FEW QUESTIONS...

FORGET IT. HE ALWAYS DENIED TO KNOWING TOMOKA.

HEY, WHATARE YOUR ODDS ON MARSHALL AGAINST STEELHAMMER?

EVEN, AT THE VERY LEAST.

THE GUY WAS ALRIGHT. I WON A COUPLE GRANDS, ONCE, THANKS TO HIM. IT'S A SHAME HE DOESN'T FIGHT ANYMORE.

?

Ah, I was forgetting Eddie, the bookie...

Rifle range...

POLICE

RIFLE RANGE

INGE

JUEEEEE

TOMOKA! THE ALARM!

UUEEEEEE

I-IT AIN'T POSSIBLE! YOU HAD DISCON-NECTED IT!

STOP WHINING. WE CAN STILL MAKE IT.

JUEEEEE

MILLITRONIC

YOU KNOW WHAT, RALF? YOU SHOULD REALLY GO ON A DIET.

YOU REALLY THINK? WEARING BLACK I EVEN LOOK THINNER!

RUN TO FREDDIE... TO THE VAN! I'LL CLIMB OVER AND REACH YOU!

DON'T MOVE, WE HAVE YOU IN OUR SIGHTS!

Blackriver district. Now.

ARRIVED, MICKEY.

SAVATE

SKREEK

GLAB!

Thanks to Eddie, I found a trail to follow...

BURKE, HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT THOSE... POLES AT THE CROSSINGS WITH THE RED, ORANGE AND GREEN LIGHTS ARE FOR?

NOPE, I'M TOO FOCUSED ON DRIVING.

If I'm not mistaken, it's kinda like boxing...

...with a few little differences.

...that has brought me to this Savate gym.

TONF

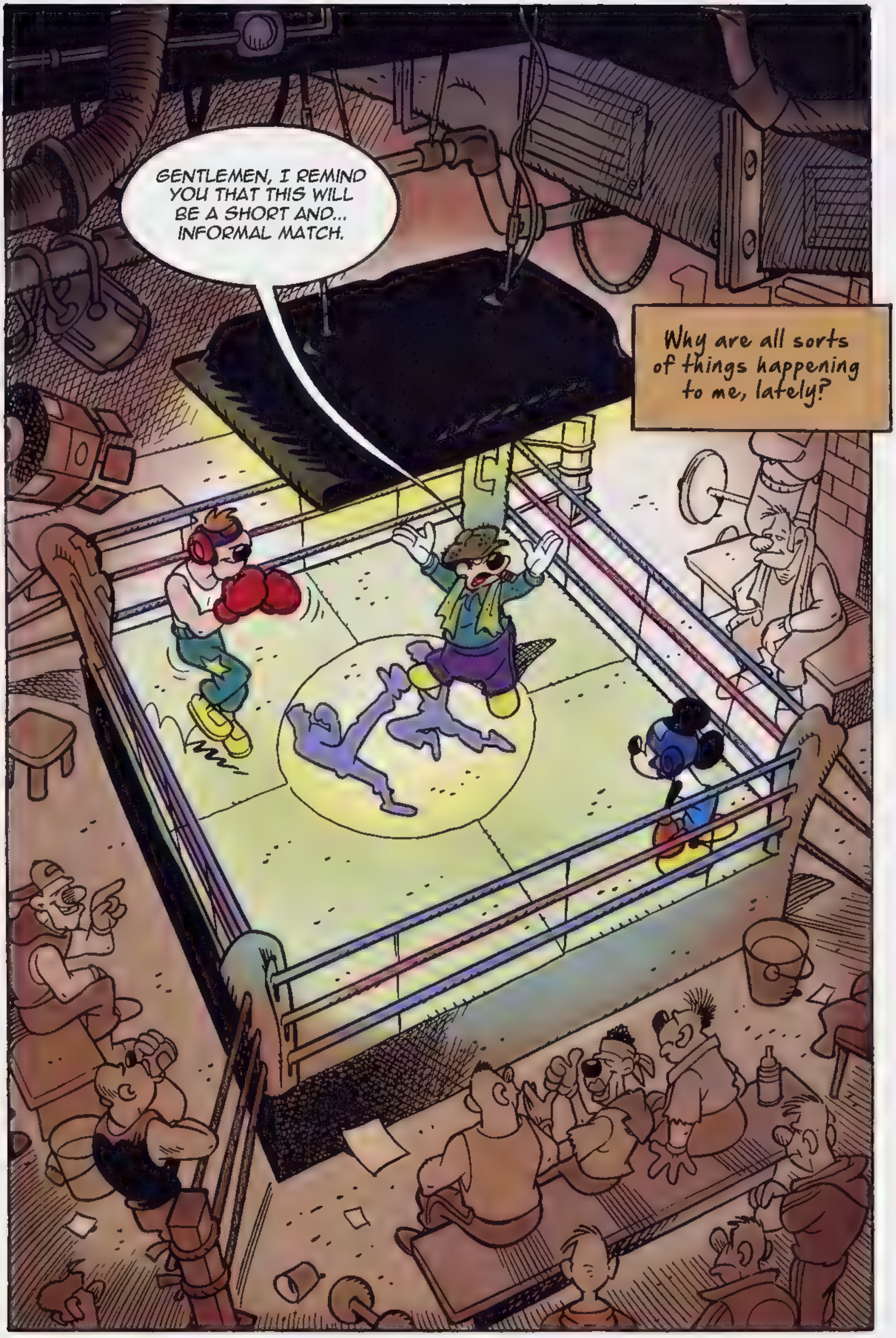
TUMP

TAP TAP TAP

MAY I?

AND WHO ARE YOU... SHORTIE?

EH! EH!
EH! EH!
ARE YOU TALKING TO ME?
NO, TO HIM!
EH! EH!
If nothing else, I brought in a gust of fun.
I just spit it out at once.
MY NAME'S MICKEY MOUSE. I'M A P.I. AND I'M INVESTIGATING ON A FORMER MEMBER OF THE GYM, TOMOKA MARSHALL.
WHAAAT?!
HEY, LOOK AROUND, DOES ANYBODY LOOK LIKE A TELLTALE?
NO...
TAKE IT EASY, GUYS. I BELIEVE THERE WAS A MISUNDER-STANDING...
I'M TOMOKA'S FRIEND!
...NOW YOU JUST HAVE TO PROVE IT.
AH, REALLY? YOU SHOULD'VE SAID THAT RIGHT AWAY...
I have a bad feeling about this.


GENTLEMEN, I REMIND YOU THAT THIS WILL BE A SHORT AND... INFORMAL MATCH.
Why are all sorts of things happening to me, lately?

SINCE OUR GUEST DOESN'T KNOW THE NOBLE RÜLES OF SAVATE...

...HE AND HIS OPPONENT WON'T BE KEPT TO THEM.

VERY WELL.

BEGIN!

AAAH!

WOOSH

The boy wastes no time.

OH!

All the better. I'm in a hurry.

He's strong, but slow...

TAKE THIS!

...too slow!

TAP

OUCH!

SWISSS

OOOPH...

ENOUGH!

TUMP

Perhaps this move won't be very fashionable...

BUT WE JUST STARTED! I CAN STILL...

...BE BEATEN BLACK AND BLUE! THE MOUSE IS ALRIGHT...

...but, after all, we're not at a cocktail party!

...AND AFTER ALL, HE'S FRIEND WITH TOMOKA, AIN'T HE?

CLAP CLAP

All in all, they're nice guys. I might come back to see them, after all this story is over. They tell me all they know about Tomoka. That is, almost nothing...

HE ALWAYS KEPT TO HIMSELF. HE CAME. HE TRAINED. HE DISAPPEARED.

IT WAS A PITY TO LOSE HIM... HE FOUGHT A DOZEN OFFICIAL MATCHES. WON EVERY SINGLE ONE.

ONE TIME, I MANAGED TO GET OUT OF HIM THAT HE LEARNED HOW TO FIGHT IN THE... ARMY SPECIAL CORPS.

WHILE HE WAS TALKING, HE HAD A STRANGE LIGHT IN HIS EYES. SOMETHING LIKE "GOOD OLE TIMES."

HE ADDED HALF A SENTENCE 'BOUT SOME OLD SARGE OF HIS, WHO HAD BEEN SOME KIND OF MENTOR TO HIM...

While I'm going away, not even Burke's driving can distract me from the feeling that I just found something useful.

...BUT THEN HE NOTICED HE LET HIMSELF GO TOO MUCH AND SHUT UP LIKE A CLAM.

PEOPLE SOMETIMES FEAR THEIR OWN FEELINGS!

SKREEE

Pity I can't realize what it is.

I'VE NEVER BEEN THIS AFRAID...

YOU SHOULDN'T, 'CAUSE IN HERE YOU'RE AS PROTECTED AS INSIDE A SAFE.

YEAH... THE POINT IS WHICH SAFE.

POLICE

LOOK AROUND, FRISCO. YOUR FAIR HAS BEEN CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC SINCE THIS MORNING, AND MY ENGINEERS CHECKED EVERYTHING.

TOMOKA COULD ONLY GET HIMSELF CAUGHT BY MY MEN.

NO ONE COULD HAVE SMUGGLED IN EVEN A LONELY MATCH, WITHOUT US NOTICING.

YES, BUT TONIGHT TOMOKA COULD...

K-KREEE

EH?

"THAT" WHAT?

HEM... A KIND OF...

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT TOO?

KREEEE

KR

FOOO

SKRAAA
CRASH
FUN H
DISCOVE

YK

LUNA PARK

Woaaah!

WOMP

When the live broadcast from the fair begun, I was staying up late at Little Caesar's.

I rushed there to have a look, hoping to find something that could help me. But there were only fire and destruction.

I don't know how long I stood there, gazing into the flames, as if they could answer my questions, until...

I BET A COFFEE THAT YOU TOO AS A CHILD WANTED TO BE A FIRE-MAN.

NO, INSPECTOR. MY DREAM WAS TO BECOME A POLICEMAN.

YOU ALMOST FULFILLED IT, THEN.

MY SHIFT BEGINS IN A FEW HOURS. I'D BETTER NOT GO TO BED. WHEN I ONLY HAVE A SHORT NAP, I'M ON EDGE ALL DAY.

THE REASONING IS FLAWLESS.

SO... FOL-LOW ME.

WHERE?

I OWE YOU A COFFEE, DON'T I?

MILK

Here I am, in Jan Clayton's kitchen, drinking coffee as black and hot as the night that is now ending

A CUP OF THIS WILL PUT US STRAIGHT. NO DOUBT IT'S BETTER THAN LITTLE CAESAR'S ONE.

CRUNC

MAYBE HIS PROBLEM IS WITH THE BLEND HE USES?

MIL

We find ourselves talking about our school days, the '76 basket semifinals, the ice cream we used to eat back then and why they don't make it anymore, baseball cards, our friends..

...and the Tomoka Marshall case, inevitably.

TELL ME A THING, INSPECTOR. WHAT WERE YOU HINTING AT THE OTHER DAY, WITH THAT JOKE ABOUT A... HOLE?

AT THE NIGHT OF THE MILLITRONICS JOB.

WHEN THE ALARM WENT OFF, GUESS WHO WAS DRIVING THE POLICE CAR PATROLLING THAT ZONE?

FORREST STEELHAMMER?

IN PERSON. PITY THAT, WHEN HE WAS ARRIVING AT THE FACTORY, HE ENDED UP INSIDE A HOLE DUG WHILE WORKING ON THE SEWERS.

WHAT A POOR FIGURE!

A WISE GUY HAD REMOVED THE WORK IN PROGRESS SIGNS, SO NO ONE BLAMED STEELHAMMER FOR THE ACCIDENT.

ANOTHER PATROL WAS SENT. BUT ON ITS ARRIVAL AT MILLITRONICS, THE POLICE FOUND ONLY TOMOKA MARSHALL.

AFTERWARDS, STEELHAMMER TOOK OVER THE INVESTIGATIONS, BUT HE GOT NOWHERE.

AT THE TIMES HE INTERROGATED MARSHALL PERSONALLY, ACHIEVING NOTHING. NOW HE HOPES TO TAKE HIS REVENGE, CATCHING THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMBINGS.

IT COULD BE A DIFFERENT PERSON.

YOU'RE RIGHT. THERE ARE NO PROOFS. BUT, IF OUR MAN IS INNOCENT, WHY DOESN'T HE SHOW UP AND EXPLAIN US WHAT HE DID AFTER HE WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON?

PERHAPS HE DOESN'T TRUST THE LAW...

MAYBE. YET, HE IS AN EXPERT IN SABOTAGES AND OPERATIONS LIKE THE ONES IN CONRAD'S WAREHOUSE AND FRISCO'S FAIR....

JAN!

YOU ALREADY GOT UP, DARLING? I WAS SLEEPING SOWELL I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR YOU COMING BACK, TONIGHT.

HELLO, MARYAM!

MILK

MMMH... SUCH A GOOD COFFEE AROMA. DID YOU PREPARE BREAKFAST?

YES...

AGAIN! YOU DRESSED THE SAME WAY AS YESTERDAY. YOUR CLOSET'S FILLED WITH NEW CLOTHES, BUT YOU ALWAYS WEAR THE SAME OLD THINGS!

HEM... YEP...

HE'S MICKEY ... THE ONE FROM THE STATION SHOOT-ING, DO YOU REMEMBER?

VERY GLAD...

YOU BROUGHT YOUR WORK HOME, JAN?

AMY, PAY RESPECT TO YOUR FATHER! AND YOU, PATRICK, BEFORE GIGGLING EVALUATE WELL YOUR SURVIVAL CHANCES WITHOUT ANY FUNDING FOR A WHOLE WEEK!

MY WIFE HAS A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR.

THERE MUST BE A REASON FOR CHOOSING TO MARRY YOU!

HEY, WHO FINISHED THE CAKE? I HOPE FOR YOU THAT YOU ALL HAVE AN ALIBI!

I laugh out loud to scare away sadness. In all my days in Anderville, I've never felt this homesick.

Northside East Palm district, a few hours later.

HERE! EVERYTHING IS STILL THE SAME WAY AS WHEN MY SON LEFT...

I'D RATHER LEAVE YOU ALONE NOW. I NEVER ENTER THIS ROOM, IT'S TOO FULL OF MEMORIES. BUT IF YOU NEED ANY HELP, I'M WITHIN EARSHOT.

ANDERVILLE JETS

LET'S GET DOWN TO WORK, DETECTIVE MICKEY!

DON'T WORRY, MA'AM. I'LL BE DOING FINE...

OOOPH...

MISSION FAILED. THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL H...

...EEERE?!

STRAPD

Here they are, all together, happily...

BINGO

I immediately recognize Tomoka Marshall...

...then Ralf Frisco, Freddie Conrad...

...and Leopold Millighan, the last link in the chain...

Or maybe not...

WAIT!

WHAT HAPPENED, MICKEY?

MRS. AKIMA, MAY I BORROW A PEN?

?

GOOD NEWS, TOMOKA!

YOU'LL BE GOING AWAY SOON, FOREVER.

THE BOSS WILL CALL AT ANY MOMENT, AS SOON AS MILLIGHAN GIVES HIM WHAT HE WANTS IN EXCHANGE FOR YOU!

MONEY, I GUESS.

NO. SOMETHING MUCH MORE PRECIOUS, AT THE MOMENT.

C'MON, TELL HIM. ANYWAY, WHEN THIS STORY WILL BE OVER, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL IT TO NO ONE!

YOU MUST BE GRATEFUL FOR BEING HERE TO A COUPLE OF MEDDLING COPPERS, WHO LAID THEIR HANDS ON A CERTAIN REGISTER, DURING AN INQUIRY ON ILLEGAL BETTING.

?

A REGISTER FULL OF NAMES, INCLUDING THE ONE OF OUR BOSS, REALLY A MESS.

IT SEEMS YOU'VE GRASPED THE IDEA, TOM.

I SEE. THIS KIND OF THINGS CAN DESTROY AN HONORED CAREER.

DON'T CALL ME THIS WAY.

YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO GIVE ORDERS, BE-WARE. WE COULD GIVE ANOTHER GO AT OUR WELCOMING TREATMENT.

YOU WERE SEVEN AGAINST ONE AND ARMED!

HE'S JUST A SORE LOSER.

YOU KNOW, WE WERE A BIT WORRIED, THE OTHER MORNING, WHEN WE DIDN'T SEE YOU ON THAT FERRY...

LUCKILY, YOU THEN HAD THE BRIGHT IDEA OF SHOWING UP IN FRONT OF CONRAD'S WAREHOUSE.

FOR AN INSTANT, I ACTUALLY CONSIDERED TAKING MY REVENGE... BUT I JUST DISMISSED THE THOUGHT.

BY THE WAY, WHAT WERE YOU DOING THERE?

THEN YOU SHOULD THANK THE BOSS FOR DOING THE JOB FOR YOU... EVEN AT FRISCO'S FUNFAIR!

AN AMAZING SHOW. IT'S A SHAME THAT YOU MISSED IT, TOM!

HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU THAT NO ONE CAN CALL ME THIS...

AAAH!

STOP!

...WAY!

STONE

YOU... STOP!

TUMP

WOOOSHH

MISSED!

OUFF!

SOCK

HIT!

Some people aren't even worth arguing with.

TOMOKA MARSHALL, I SUPPOSE.

AND WHO ARE YOU?

PAF PAF

THE NAME'S MICKEY MOUSE. I'M A PRIVATE DETECTIVE.

While we package the two bad crows, a quick info exchange happens...

...AND HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

THANKS TO THIS ONE.

?

"I just had to add beard, hair, and a scar..."

MY FRIEND LITTLE CAESAR MANAGED TO GET STEELHAMMER'S ADDRESS; WHOSE HOUSE, BY THE WAY, IS SURROUNDED BY A PARK WHICH YOU CAN'T PAY WITH A POLICEMAN PAY...

I DREW NEARER TO HAVE A LOOK TO THIS SHED AND...

"And a former sergeant became... a lieutenant in Anderville police force!"

AND NOW?

... YOU CAME ON STAGE AT THE RIGHT TIME!

ARE YOU READY FOR THE GRAND FINALE, TOMOKA?

I'VE BEEN WAITING IT FOR TWO YEARS, MICKEY!

Moneydale district.

HERE IT IS, FORREST! I ASSURE IT WASN'T EASY TO RETRIEVE.

I TRIED TO DEVISE SOMETHING OF MY OWN. BUT I DON'T ENJOY ALL YOUR POLITICAL CONNECTIONS...

...AND THEN AGAIN IT LOOKS LIKE A FAIR PRICE FOR TOMOKA.

YOU STILL HAVE TO CATCH HIM.

I JUST HAVE TO GIVE THE ORDER. MY MEN KNOW WHERE HIS HIDEOUT IS. WHO KNOWS, MAYBE HE'S PLANNING THE THIRD BOMBING RIGHT NOW...

AFTER FREDDIE AND RALF, IT'S LEOPOLD'S TURN!

AND WHY NOT YOURS, INSTEAD?

COME ON! YOU KNOW HE'D NEVER DARE TO LAY A FINGER ON HIS OLD SARGE, WHO TAUGHT HIM EVERYTHING!

IT'S ONLY NOT TO DAMAGE ME THAT HE NEVER SPOKE DURING THE INTERROGATIONS, EVEN IF WE DIDN'T DESERVE HIS SILENCE.

YES. WE DIDN'T KEEP THE PACT...

...IF ONE OF US WERE ARRESTED, THE MONEY OBTAINED IN THE JOB SHOULD HAVE BEEN USED TO CORRUPT SOMEONE VERY HIGH UP...

AN INSURANCE OF SORTS! BUT WHEN IT WAS TIME TO CASH IT, TOMOKA WAS LEFT TO ROT IN PRISON.

YOU KNOW WHAT? IF I WERE HIM, I'D HAVE IT IN FOR YOU MORE THAN EVERYONE ELSE. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GAINED THE MOST FROM IT.

BUT THE IDEA WAS YOURS!

IF THAT PROTOTYPE WERE TO BE DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD HAVE COME OUT THAT IT WAS A BLUFF...

A DEVICE DOOMED TO BLOW UP AFTER A FEW SECONDS OF USE!

BUT YOU HAD ALREADY POCKETED THE ADVANCE AND THE RESEARCH FUNDS. BESIDES ALL THAT MONEY, OUR JOB GAINED YOU PRECIOUS MONTHS... SAVING YOUR COMPANY!

AS IF ALL THIS WEREN'T ENOUGH, THE ALARM CODES YOU GAVE US WERE WRONG. IT ALL WAS THIS CLOSE TO BE WRECKED, AND IT WAS YOUR FAULT!

LUCKILY, I ARRANGED TO BE ON PATROL AROUND THERE. AND I HAD AL-READY PREPARED A GOOD EXCUSE TO WASTE TIME...

I C-COULDN'T KNOW THEY WERE CHANGED EXACTLY THAT NIGHT!

NO ONE SUSPECTED THAT I WAS THE ONE WHO REMOVED THOSE WORK IN PROGRESS SIGNS, A FEW HOURS EARLIER. SO I ENDED UP IN A HOLE, FOR THE GOOD OF EVERYONE!

NOW IT'S ENOUGH, FORREST!

NICELY SAID, LEO...

...NOW IT'S MY TURN!

AND MINE.

TOMOKA!

DON'T MOVE, SOLDIER!

YOU CAN'T GIVE ME ORDERS ANYMORE...

YOU ARE NO LONGER MY SERGEANT...

PEW

BOOM

SHAK

A second ago, Tomoka was on the path of Steelhammer's shot...

...and now he's in front of him!

YOU ARE NO LONGER...

OUFF!

POW

...ANYTHING!

UH!

Then I get to do something, at last!

AH AH

AH AH

STUMP

EEEH?

For an moment, we savor the taste of triumph.

But moments have the fault of lasting only for a moment...

NOT BAD. YOU SHOULD TRY SAVATE.

ALREADY DONE.

TUMP

HEY! LOOK!

WOOSHHH

NOOO!

IT'S TIME TO PAY THE PRICE, FORREST STEELHAMMER!

N-NO...

NO ONE MAKE A MOVE!

WHO...

OOOH...

IF THERE'S A THING I CAN'T STAND, IS ARRIVING WHEN THE SHOW HAS ALREADY BEGUN!

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, IT'S ALREADY OVER!

YOUR ORDERS, INSPECTOR?

YOU KNOW, MICKEY, SOMEONE WITH A VOICE LIKE YOURS SHOULDN'T MAKE ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLS.

BRING THEM ALL TO THE PRECINCT!

VILLA MILLIGHAN

For a change...

...SO IT WAS FORREST STEELHAMMER WHO ENGINEERED THE BANGS AT CONRAD'S AND FRISCO'S?

JUST SO.

向西天

HE WANTED LEOPOLD MILLIGHAN TO FEEL THE NOOSE OF TOMOKA'S REVENGE TIGHTENING AROUND HIS NECK!

VERY CLEVER.

HE PROBABLY HAD TOMOKA RELEASED JUST AT THE RIGHT TIME.

HEY, VISITS!

INSPECTOR JAN CLAYTON! MAYBE HE WANTS TO TAKE A SAMPLE OF THE BURGERS, FOR THE FORENSICS...

PERHAPS THEY NEED THEM TO REOPEN A CASE FROM THE SIXTIES.

BE CAREFUL, YOU GUYS. MY PATIENCE IS RUNNING OUT.

EVERYTHING FINE, LITTLE CAESAR?

FINE, JAN.

I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU, MICKEY. COME OUT A SEC, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

OKAY.

I JUST GOT BACK FROM THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. I HAVE A COUPLE OF GOOD NEWS AND A BAD ONE.

LET'S START WITH THE GOOD ONES, THEN.

HOT P
Pota
$ 1.

FINANCIAL

STEELHAMMER IS GOING ON A LONG FIELD TRIP TO OLDER PENITENTIARY.

EXCELLENT!

BESIDES YOU AND MARSHALL, SOME MEN WHO WERE ON HIS TEAM WILL TESTIFY AGAINST HIM, TOO, IN EXCHANGE FOR A SHORTENED SENTENCE.

AND THERE'S STILL THAT **REGISTER**, WHICH NAILS HIM FOR THE ILLEGAL BETTING.

AND TOMOKA?

DON'T WORRY, HE'S COMING OUT OF THIS CLEAN...

DINER

IT'S NOT EASY TO NAIL DOWN SOMEONE LIKE HIM, DOWN HERE.

BUT HE WAS THE ONE BEHIND THE MILLITRONICS JOB!

...AND SO HIS LEOPOLD MILLIGHAN.

WHAT?

And here's the bad news.

HA, HE WAS... AND WHO'S SAYING IT?

MAYBE TOMOKA WILL AGREE TO WITNESS, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED.

YES, MAYBE. BUT WHAT IS HIS WORD WORTH AGAINST THE ONE OF THE SCION OF ONE OF ANDERVILLE'S MOST INFLUENTIAL FAMILIES?

ALRIGHT, LET'S LEAVE THE ROBBERY BE. HE STILL STOLE THE REGISTER TO "PAY" STEELHAMMER!

THE REGISTER HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN HIS PLACE. IT WOULD BE TOO EMBARRASSING TO EXPLAIN HOW IT DID LEAVE A CERTAIN OFFICE

SO?

SO YOU GOT YOURSELF A POWERFUL ENEMY.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF I WERE YOU, I'D FORGET ABOUT GOING BACK TO MOUSETON FOR A WHILE. ALLOW THE DUST TO SETTLE.

NO... HE CAN'T DO THIS!

HE CAN, AND HOW, MICKEY.

LISTEN TO ME, DON'T MAKE TOO MANY PERSONAL CALLS, YOU COULD BE NOT ALONE ON THE PHONE.

KEEP A LOW PROFILE FOR SOME TIME. MOUSETON ISN'T THAT FAR...

Yet to me it already feels like another planet.

TLAC TLAC TLAC

MMMH....THE SACRED STONES SAY THAT... THAT...

...THAT AN OLD AND... BIG FRIEND OF YOURS DIDN'T CAME TO THE END THAT EVERYONE BELIEVES HE DID!

THAT?

Sonny!

BREEP BREEP

YES... HELLO?

AH, IT'S YOU! YOU WERE RIGHT, YOU KNOW? HE REALLY KNOWS HIS JOB...

It's quite unbelievable what you can let someone believe with an handful of gravel.

end Fine

SOUVENIR
WHITE WHALE
CAPE
HOTEL
MENÚ TURÍSTICO $ 7.99
Fine
SOUVENIR
WHITE WHALE
HOTEL
MENÚ TURÍSTICO $ 7.99
Fine
HOTEL
Fine

Little Caesar
guest check
ANDERVILLE
STAR
Hamburgers